protect anybody—anybody who may have allegedly committed any misdemeanour or any other thing. All that I want to say in reply to Shri Khuranaji ..he is an Hon. Member from Delhi and he must be knowing more details than anybody else—is that I am told that a case of cheating is pending in some criminal court in Delhi. .. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. I would not like to prejudice the case because the case is *sub judice*. I would not like to say anything which will, in one way or the other, jeopardise the interests of either of the parties. (*Interruptions*).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Syllabi for Students from Lower K.G. to Plus 2 Standard

*448. SHRI VIJY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be please to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the suitability of existing syllabi for students right from lower K.G. to + 2 standard:

(b) whether the existing syllabi do not overburden school children and make them unable to grasp the subjects; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to make fundamentals of the subjects interesting and easy to grasp ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 envisages a national system of education, one of the aspects of which is National Curricular Framework containing a common core along with other flexible components.

Keeping the postulates of NPE in view, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) brought out in 1988, a National Curricular Framework for all stages of school education. On the basis of the guidelines given in the Framework, the NCERT revised the entire school syllabi and brought out revised text books for classes I to XII. The Framework and the revised syllabi took into account various curricular concerns, including the question, of suitability, child-centred approach to education, relevance and curriculum load. Every care has been taken to see that the syllabi are suited to the needs of our country and appropriate for children's learing and development.

Based on the National Curricular Framework and the syllabi and textbooks brought out by NCERT, the States and Union Territories have also undertaken measures of curriculum renewal and development of new textbooks for different stages of school education for their introduction into the school system in a phased manner.

The last phase of publication of revised textbooks by the NCERT has been completed in December, 1990 and in a few States, the process is still on. According to the NCERT, it is too early to undertake a formal assessment of the suitability of the new syllabi.

The pedagogical thrusts stressed in the National Curricular Framework of 1988 as well as in the NCERT

syllabi/textbooks are based on a comprehensive understanding of the pupil's psyche, the learning process and conditions and methods of learning. The stress given in the Framework on a child-centred approach to education, on the role of the teacher as facilitator, on replacement of role leaning, lectures and information by interactive modes of teaching which focus on 'learning' and stimulate curiosity; are designed to make the study of subjects interesting and easy to grasp.

The tendency on the part of some schools, particularly those in urban areas, to recommend a large number of books, has contributed to overburdening of students. This tendency was sought to be curbed by issuing instructions from the Ministry of Human Resource Development in October, 1989 to the Education Secretaries of all States and Union Territories to ask the schools not to prescribe more books than which are actually required and to ensure that children carry only those textbooks/exercise books which are actually required on a particular day.

[*Translation*]

Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh

*452 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Urban Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Civic Amenities in Jhuggi Jhompari Colonies of Delhi

*453. SHRI RAM BADAN :

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of houses in various Jhuggi Jhompari colonies in Delhi and total population residing there:

(b) the number of such colonies where there is no arrangement for electricity, water and sanitation; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to raise the living standard of the people residing in such colonies ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) The position regarding the Jhuggi Jhompari (JJ) clusters and the population residing therein is reported to be as follows :

(i) Total estimated jhuggi clusters in Delhi—929.

(ii) Total number of jhuggi families in Delhi—2.60 lakhs.

(iii) The estimated population in these jhuggis—13 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The scheme of Environmental Improvement of JJ clusters has been in operation since the Seventh Plan. The scheme aims at providing minimum basic civic amenities of drinking water, Pay and Use public